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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1939,

by

R. DE VEIL KING,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON WEEKLY NEWS.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

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WELLINGTON—RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1939.

Area (in Acres)	37,911
*Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1939	7,042
Census Population, 1931	7,525
No. of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1939	2,185
Rateable Value—1st April, 1939	£28,888
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March, 1939—	£126—18s.—8d.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.	
†Live Births	Legitimate	82	46	36	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident pop. 11.9
	Illegitimate	2	2	—	
		84	48	36	

Still Births—Total 5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 56.1

Deaths—Total 101

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 13.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		Deaths	*Rates per* 1000 *Births*
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	1	11.2
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	—	—

* The Registrar-General has supplied two Population figures:—

(*a*) 7,042 for the calculation of Birth rates.

(*b*) 7,297 for the calculation of Death rates.

† The Registrar General has supplied two live Birth rates:—

(*a*) Total 88 for calculating Birth rates.

(*b*) Total 84 for calculating Infant and Maternal Mortalities.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate, 1—Illegitimate, 1:—Total Infant Deaths	2
All Infants per 1,000 live births	23.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	500.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

The rates for the area can be compared with the rates for England and Wales in the following table: the local crude death rate has been multiplied by the factor 0.79 supplied by the Registrar-General to make this rate strictly comparable with that for England and Wales:—

	E. & W.	*Wellington R.D.*
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.0	11.9
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.59	0.71
Death rate per 1,000 population	12.1	10.9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	50.0	23.8
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—		
(*a*) Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	11.2
(*b*) Other causes	2.16	—
Total	2.93	11.2

Infant Mortality During 1939.

The following table gives the causes and ages at death of the infants who died under one year of age:—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Haemorrhage of New Born	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2

Causes of Death during 1939.

Cause of Death.	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
All Causes	49	52	101
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	2	1	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Other Tuberculous Disease	—	—	—
Syphilis	1	—	1
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	8	12	20
Diabetes	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	3	6
Heart Disease	8	17	25
Aneurysm	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	3	8
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
Other Diseases of the Liver, etc.	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	2	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	—	1	1
Senility	5	3	8
Suicide	—	—	—
Other Violence	5	—	5
Other Defined Diseases	2	6	8
Causes Ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over	—	—	—
Total	49	52	101

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities are fully described in the Report for 1938. No changes in these have occurred since then.

This Area is one of the Reception Districts for Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme. A certain number of the evacuees were found on arrival and afterwards to be suffering from contagious diseases such as Scabies, Impetigo and Verminous conditions. The milder cases were treated in their billets, but the severer cases were accommodated either at the Sick-Bay in Wellington Urban District (sanctioned for this purpose and equipped for 13 beds by the Ministry of Health) or accommodation was found for them at Taunton Isolation Hospital or the Public Assistance Institutions in Taunton and Wellington. There has been no noticeable increase in the amount of Infectious Diseases in the district as the result of the Government Evacuation Scheme.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. A detailed statement of the Water supplies of the area, by Parishes, was given in the Report for 1938.

The following is a summary of the Water Analysis during 1939:—

Origin of Water.	*Chemical*	*Satisfactory*	*Not satisfactory*	*Not fit*	*Total*
Public Supplies	2	13	2	1	18
Council Houses	2	4	2	–	8
Private Supplies	–	16	18	13	47
Proposed Public Supply	–	–	1	–	1
	4	33	23	14	74

Drainage and Sewerage. An outline of the Drainage and Sewerage of the district was given in the Report for 1933.

Public Cleansing. The areas in which Refuse Collection is undertaken by the Council is given in the Report for 1938.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Council's Sanitary Inspector under Art. 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Nature and number of Inspections during the year:—	
Dwelling-houses	158
Dwelling-houses re-inspected	205
Slaughter-houses	121
Bakehouses	22
Disinfections for Infectious Diseases, etc.	25
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	56
Miscellaneous Nuisances	63
Factories and Workshops	17
Number of Notices served during the year:—	
Informal Notices	59
Statutory Notices	15
Result of Notices served:—	
Complied with	55
In hand	41

Housing.

The particulars given below are in the form required annually by the Minister of Health:—

I. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year*:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	158
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for this purpose	172
(2) (*a*) Number of Dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	43
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for this purpose	51
(3) Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	87

II. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices*:—

Number of defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 53

III. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*:—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 16

(2) Number of Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:—

(*a*) By Owners 8

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 9

(2) Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—

(*a*) By Owners .... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

(2) Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Tenement or Room having been rendered fit .... —

IV. *Housing Act*, 1936—*Part IV.—Overcrowding*:—

(*a*) (1) Number of Dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	22
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	26
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	121
(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	40
(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which Dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(1) By Local Authority—	
With State Assistance—	
(*a*) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	23
(*b*) Overcrowding	—
(*c*) Other	—
Without State Assistance—	—
(2) By other Bodies or Persons—	
(*a*) With State Assistance	8
(*b*) Without State Assistance	15

The position with regard to the number of Dwellinghouses built or in course of erection by the Council up to December 31st, 1939, is as follows:—

Under 1890 Act	14
,, 1919 Act	16
,, 1924 Act	108
,, 1936 Act	58
,, 1938 Act	19
and in course of erection under 1938 Act	26

The Houses in course of erection are situated at:—

Church Lane, Fitzhead	4
Hill's Farm, Fitzhead	6
Nynehead	8
Budgett's Cross, West Buckland	8

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—The usual routine work has been carried out. 91 samples of milk were taken during the year (against 86 during 1938) for bacteriological examination by the County Council's Analyst:—

Designation.	*No. of Samples taken.*	*No. found satisfactory*	*No. found unsatisfactory*
Tuberculin Tested	27	20	7
Accredited	44	35	9
Pasteurised	8	7	1
Examined for tubercle bacilli	12	12	—
Totals ..	91	74	17

The following Licences are in force in the district:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7; Accredited Milk, 10. and in addition there are two Supplementary Milk Licences for the retail of Pasteurised Milk within the district. The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Register shows:—

No. of Producers on the Register 182

No. of Distributors divided as follows:—

Distributors only .... nil

Distributors who are also Producers 62

Meat and Other Foods.—The usual routine inspections have been carried out at the 8 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district, 118 inspections being made of them during which the following were inspected:—

306 cattle, excluding cows; 4 cows; 61 sheep and 258 pigs.

Of the cattle inspected .3 % and of the pigs inspected .3 % were affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. The per centage number affected with Tuberculosis was .3 for cattle and 1.5 for pigs.

Bakehouses.—There are 10 in the district and 19 inspections were made.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	6	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	11	—	—
†**Other Premises** under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	—	—	—
Total	17	—	—

† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — unsuitable or defective	1	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	—	—	—	—
Total	5	7	—	—

Prevalance of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases

There were 23 notifications for Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, namely:—

Scarlet Fever 8, Diphtheria 5, Pneumonia 5,
Erysipelas 2, Puerperal Pyrexia 2, Measles 1,
and Polio-myelitis 1.

The Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, came into force towards the end of the year, making these diseases notifiable.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases does not appear to have increased during the year as the result of the increased population derived from Evacuation Areas.

Tuberculosis.

Three notifications for Respiratory Tuberculosis were received during the year, all females aged 18, 24 and 26 years respectively. There were two male and two female deaths from the disease. On the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, there were in the district 37 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 20 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

A confidential list of all cases of Tuberculosis residing in the district was sent to the Chief Billeting Officer with the instruction that Evacuees should not be billeted upon them.